

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 14, 2021

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden,

There is a crisis at our Southern Border as our nation faces the largest surge in illegal immigration in over twenty years. While your administration's policies are exacerbating the crisis at the Southern Border, as Representatives of Northern Border districts, we write concerned about the dangerous ramifications these policies are having along our Northern Border.

At 5,525 miles long and with more than 120 ports of entry, the Northern Border constitutes the longest land boundary between two countries in the world. Despite being twice the length of the Southern Border, staffing along our Northern Border has been and continues to remain, dangerously low specifically along the sectors of the North Country and waters of Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River. Despite these low staffing levels your administration proceeded with the reassignment of Border Patrol Agents from the North Country to the Southern Border; proposed flying illegal immigrants from Southern to Northern Border states for processing; and tasked Border Patrol Agents along the Northern Border to work overtime and virtually "process" illegal immigrants crossing the Southern Border. All of this to address the humanitarian and national security crisis your administration created by refusing to secure and invest in our Southern Border security.

This is unacceptable and for the safety and well-being of our Border Patrol Agents and communities in the North Country and Upstate New York, we request answers from your administration on the following questions:

1. How many Border Patrol Agents are patrolling the Buffalo and Swanton Sectors compared to the numbers in 2020?
2. How many Border Patrol Agents are patrolling in New York's 21st and 24th Congressional Districts (including both Buffalo and Swanton Sectors)?
3. What is the status of patrol boats on Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River (which we know to be an effective tool in stopping the flow of illegal immigrants and illegal drugs into the Northern States)?

4. For the Border Patrol Agents being reassigned from the Northern to Southern Border, what is your administration doing to protect these individuals from COVID-19 exposure before returning to their families and communities?
5. When is your administration expecting to begin flying illegal immigrants from Southern to Northern Border states and what are you doing to prepare communities to handle this influx?
6. What is your administration currently doing to address the staffing shortages along the Northern Border that continue to worsen under your leadership?

The lack of effective response to the crisis on our Southern Border is threatening the operational readiness along our Northern Border. A threat that puts our communities and nation at risk. Our Northern Border Patrol Agents continue to remain understaffed and overworked and for the safety of our communities, we ask that you provide answers to these questions. We implore you to reconsider your reluctance to invest in our Southern Border security and for the safety of all Americans, revise your immigration policies that have been failing thus far.

Sincerely,



Elise Stefanik
Member of Congress



John Katko
Member of Congress